

PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FISH
HATCHERY IN THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA

AUGUST 6, 1959.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. SCOTT, from the Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany H.R. 2398]

The Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce, to whom was referred the bill (H.R. 2398) to provide for the establishment of a fish hatchery in the northwestern part of the State of Pennsylvania, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon without amendment and recommends that the bill do pass.

Public hearings were held by your committee on the bill and everyone desiring to testify was given an opportunity to be heard.

PURPOSE OF THE BILL

This bill would authorize the construction of a fish hatchery. The area concerned includes the western parts of New York and Pennsylvania and the northern part of West Virginia. Within this area lies the Allegheny National Forest, 37 miles long and 43 miles wide, 463,179 acres in public ownership. Forest boundaries encompass an approximate 750,000 acres containing 500 miles of streams. The U.S. Forest Service is building dams to create reservoirs within the National Forest to provide needed facilities for sport fishing.

The proposed Kinzua Dam, which now has been authorized on the Allegheny River is expected to stabilize the flow of that river and provide many miles of suitable trout habitat immediately below the dam. Natural reproduction of trout is usually negligible below dams which necessitates annual restocking to maintain a proper fishery. The dam will create a lake covering 12,000 square miles, narrow and deep in places, which will support a fish population. Farm ponds are on the increase in western New York and Pennsylvania. The production of warm water species such as channel catfish would be a valuable addition to certain waters in the area.

The production of the proposed hatchery would supplement production at the small existing Federal hatchery at Farnsworth and the State hatcheries, which will serve the increasing number of sports fishermen attracted by the Allegheny River Basin development.

The establishment of this Federal fish hatchery would be in keeping with the primary purpose of such hatcheries: (1) To stock waters on lands owned or controlled by the Federal Government, and (2) to assist the States to fulfill fishery management obligations.

COST

The cost of the hatchery is estimated at less than \$1 million and the annual operating cost, it is estimated, will not exceed \$90,000.

REPORT OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

A favorable report from the Department of the Interior is set forth below.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY,
Washington, D.C., July 31, 1959.

Hon. WARREN G. MAGNUSON,
Chairman, Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce,
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C.

DEAR SENATOR MAGNUSON: Your committee has requested a report on H.R. 2398, a bill to provide for the establishment of a fish hatchery in the northwestern part of the State of Pennsylvania.

We recommend the enactment of this bill.

This bill is the same as S. 2781, of the 85th Congress, upon which we submitted a report to your committee, on September 25, 1957. Although not favoring the proposal at that time our report recognized a possible future need for additional hatchery facilities in the particular region. We have given further consideration to this matter and believe the fishing pressure in this region warrants the establishment of a hatchery.

We have examined a number of sites in northwestern Pennsylvania to determine their value for the location of a fish-cultural station. Our investigations indicate that a site below the proposed Kinzua Dam on the Allegheny River may be suitable for this purpose. The water supply at this point could be taken from the reservoir at different elevations in order to obtain desirable temperatures for hatchery purposes. Our studies indicate that the establishment of such a hatchery and development of the site will cost approximately \$800,000. This cost will include the water supply and drain lines, concrete raceways, a hatchery building, warm-water ponds, quarters for personnel, site leveling and clearing, roads and parking areas, equipment, and engineering. Seven permanent employees will be required to operate the hatchery. The annual operating costs will be approximately \$90,000.

This hatchery will serve an area that includes the western portions of New York and Pennsylvania as well as the northern part of West Virginia. Within this area lies the Allegheny National Forest, 37 miles long and 43 miles wide, encompassing approximately three-quarters of a million acres of land, and containing 500 miles of streams.

The waters in the Allegheny National Forest as well as in contiguous areas are subjected to heavy fishing pressure as these waters are within a few hours drive from certain major cities, such as Pittsburgh, Buffalo, Erie, and Cleveland. Establishment of this hatchery should promote the highly beneficial sport of sport fishing.

The proposed Kinzua Dam, on the Allegheny River, is expected to stabilize the flow of that river and to provide many miles of suitable trout habitat immediately below the dam. As the natural reproduction of trout is usually negligible below major dams, the annual restocking of tailwaters is necessary to maintain a trout fishery. In this connection, it should be noted that the trout fishery below the major dams on the White River in Arkansas, as well as on the Colorado and Missouri Rivers has proven to be a major attraction and a valuable addition to the Nation's sport fishery. The Allegheny River below the Kinzua Dam should be no exception. 12,000-acre reservoir that will be created above Kinzua Dam will be narrow and deep at the lower end. It will support a desirable fish population.

This new hatchery would supplement production at the small Federal hatchery at Farnsworth as well as the production at State hatcheries. Every indication points to a continued annual increase in fishing pressure in western Pennsylvania.

The Bureau of the Budget has advised that while there would be no objection to the submission of this report to your committee, that Bureau would recommend against the proposed authorization at this time since the status of the Kinzua Dam is in question at the moment, and since completion of this key factor in the justification of this hatchery will, in any case, involve a considerable period of time, thereby affecting the present estimate of future needs.

Sincerely yours,

ROSS L. LEFFLER,
Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

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